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U.S. Adjutant-General's Office

Your job in the army

[Washington]

[1943]

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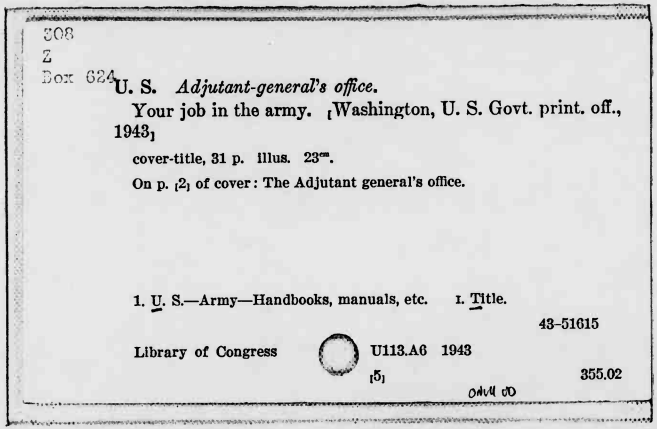

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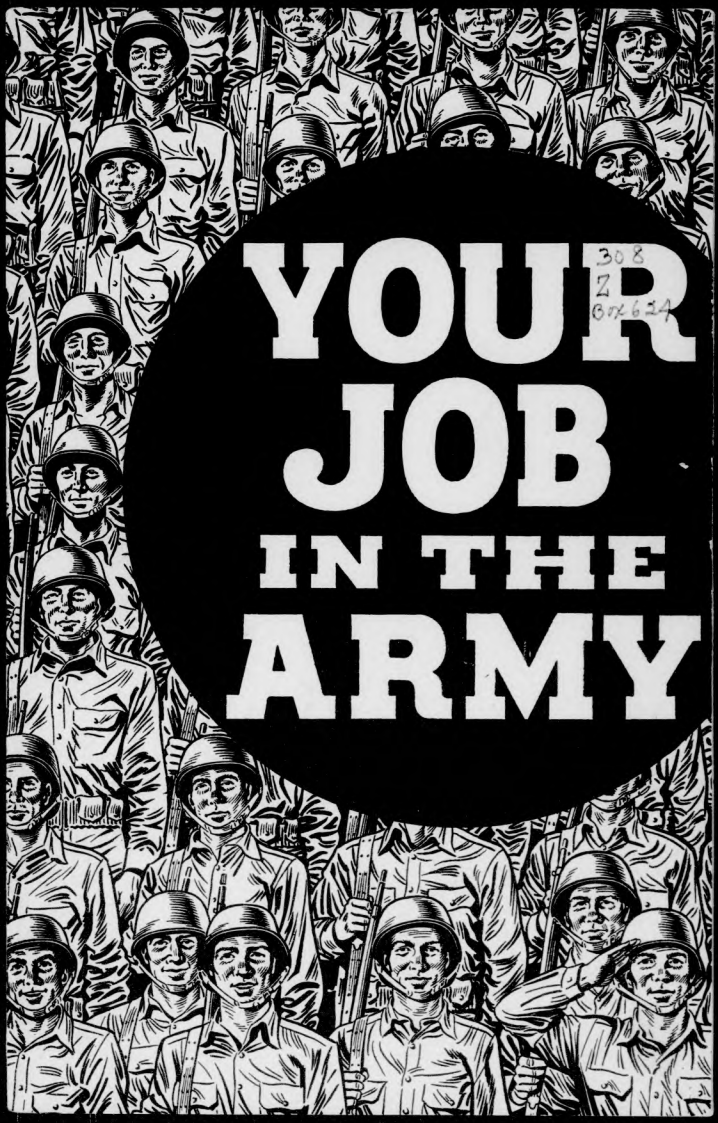

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FOR
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THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1943

Photographs by United States Army Signal Corps

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THERE are many jobs to be done in the Army. Some soldiers have to do one kind of job. Other soldiers have to do something else. Some men can do one job best. Other men do better at other things. There is no job that all men can do well. There is no man who can do well at every job.

This book tells you about jobs in the Army. There are all kinds of jobs in the Army. The Army needs men who can do these jobs well. The Army wants you to have the job you can do well. You can serve your country better that way.

See if you can do the things that are needed in one of these jobs. Perhaps the Army can help you to learn how to do one of these jobs.

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RIFLEMAN

Riflemen are good at bayonet fighting, grenade throwing, and rifle shooting. They are ready to fight the enemy. They destroy the enemy at a distance with rifle fire. When the enemy is close, they attack him with bayonets. When he is behind cover, they throw grenades at him.

Riflemen must learn to use their weapons. They learn to use the bayonet, the grenade, and the rifle. New soldiers are taught by men who know how to use these weapons.

A rifleman learns to shoot well on the rifle range. He aims his rifle at the bull's-eye. At first he shoots at a standing target, and later he shoots at a moving target. When the rifleman has learned to aim and fire well, his bullets hit the middle of the target. Then he has become a marksman, a sharpshooter, or an expert, and has earned the Army medal for men who are good shots. He will wear the medal with pride.

There are many things to learn about a rifle. The rifleman must know how to clean and oil his gun. He must know how to load the rifle, how to aim it, and how to squeeze the trigger. He must be able to shoot fast and well. He must be able to fix his gun when it jams. Soldiers who can do these things will help America win the war.

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AMMUNITION HANDLER

Ammunition handlers move shells and bullets to the guns. Bullets for rifles and shells for the big guns are called ammunition. All guns use ammunition, and many ammunition handlers are needed to help serve the guns.

Handling ammunition is a dangerous job. Shells and bullets are handled many times by many men. These men must be strong and quick. They must be careful not to stumble when they carry their load.

Bullets and shells are piled in ammunition dumps. The handlers move the ammunition from this pile to the trucks. Then the trucks carry it to the troops. The ammunition handlers unload the trucks. Then they pile the ammunition near the guns and the riflemen. Every rifleman is given the bullets he needs, and then he can load his rifle to fire at the enemy.

The ammunition handler works hard. Guns cannot be fired without ammunition, and the Army cannot fight without its ammunition handlers.

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The ammunition handler works hard. Guns cannot be fired without ammunition, and the Army cannot fight without its ammunition handlers.

CANNONEER

Cannoneers load and fire the big guns. They also keep the guns clean and in working order.

After the ammunition handlers bring the shells, the cannoneers put them into the guns. When it is time to shoot, the gunner aims the gun. The cannoneers stand by and fire the gun when they are told.

Cannoneers must be strong and always ready to act. Each time a gun is fired, it must be loaded again. The cannoneers must have the next shell ready.

Cannoneers never work alone. Several of them work together as a team. Each man has a job to do which he knows well. The team knows just what must be done to care for the gun and to load and fire it.

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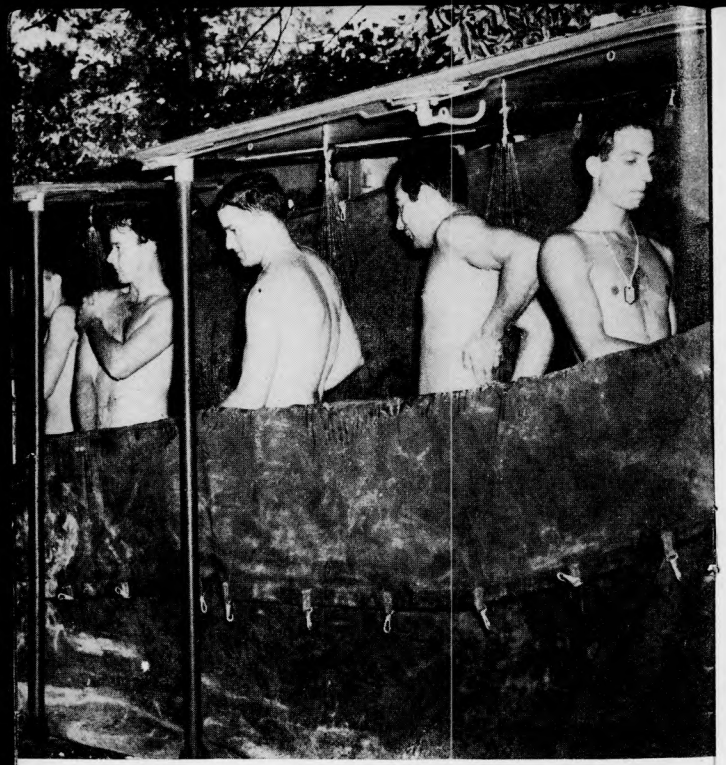


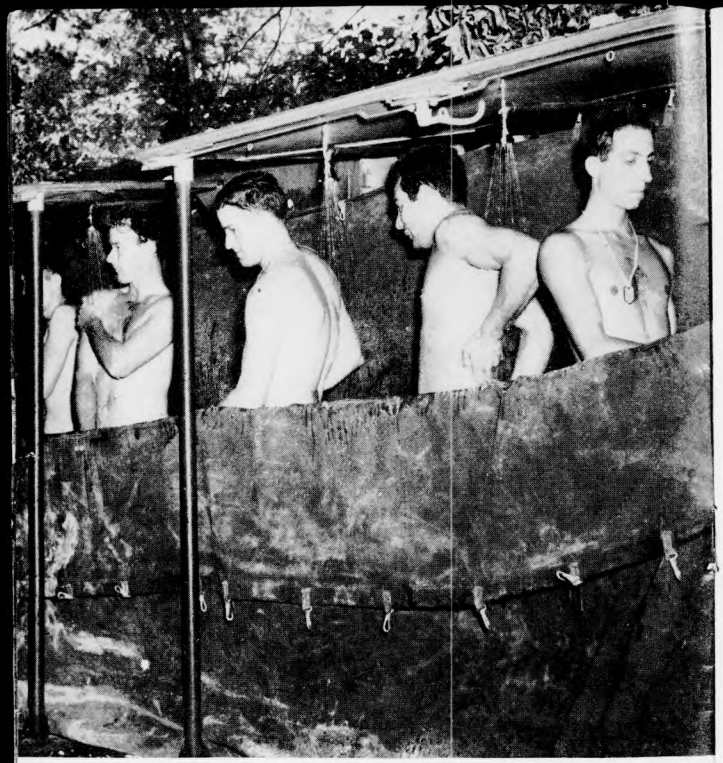
BATH ATTENDANT

Bath attendants help fighting soldiers keep clean. Soldiers cannot always take showers or wash their clothes when they are in the field. They cannot always take off their clothes at night.

Dirty clothes and dirty bodies are not healthful. Lice breed in dirt. Lice make soldiers uncomfortable. They also carry disease.

Soldiers must be helped to get clean when they come in from the field. The dirt must be washed off and the lice killed. Bath attendants help the soldiers to do this. They shave the soldiers' bodies to remove the lice. They help them bathe in vinegar or kerosene to kill the lice. Then the soldiers take their showers. There should not be any lice or dirt on a soldier when the bath attendant has finished his job.

Bath attendants help to keep soldiers well. This helps the Army because only healthy soldiers can fight. The bath attendant has an important job which he must do well.



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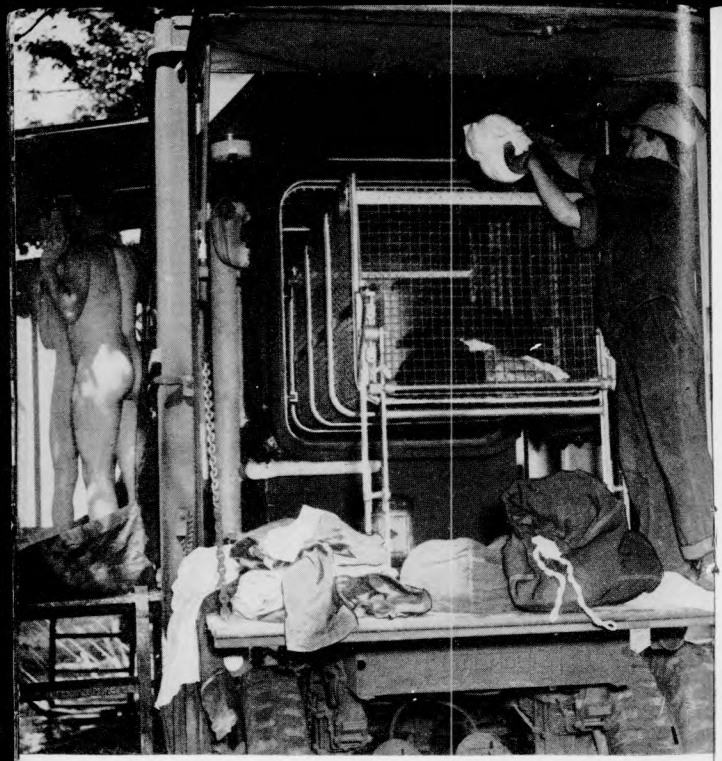
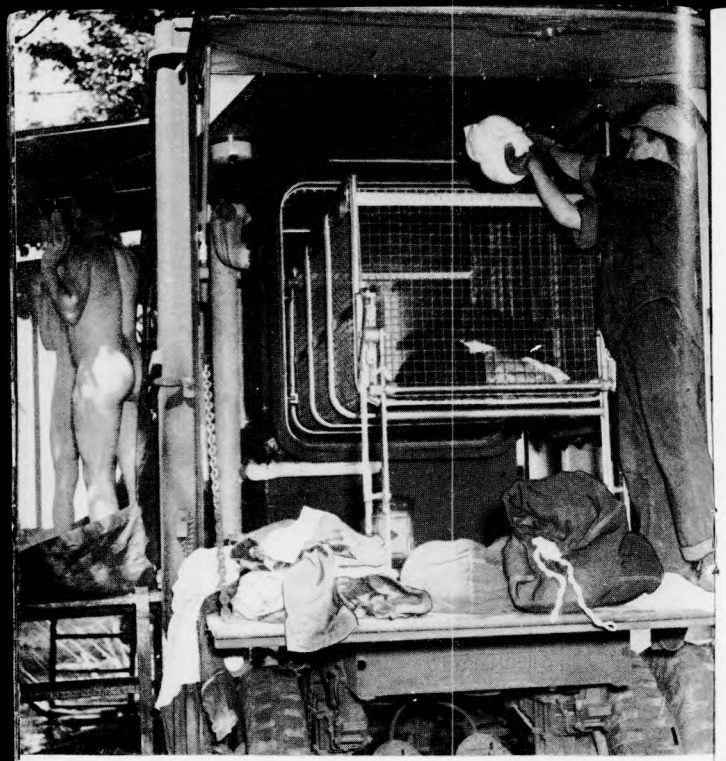


STERILIZER OPERATOR

Sterilizer operators help to clean the soldier's clothes. Sometimes dirt and lice get on the uniforms. Then the clothes must be cleaned, because men may get sick from filth and insects.

First the men undress. Then the sterilizer operator puts a tag on their clothes. He puts them into a machine and sets the controls. Heat is used to kill the insects. The lice are killed when there is enough heat in the machine. The operator leaves the clothes in the machine until they are clean. Then he opens the door, takes out the bundles, and returns them to the soldiers. Now the soldiers put on clothes that are fresh and clean again.

There are no lice or dirt when the sterilizer operator has finished his job. He helps to keep the soldiers healthy and in good fighting shape.



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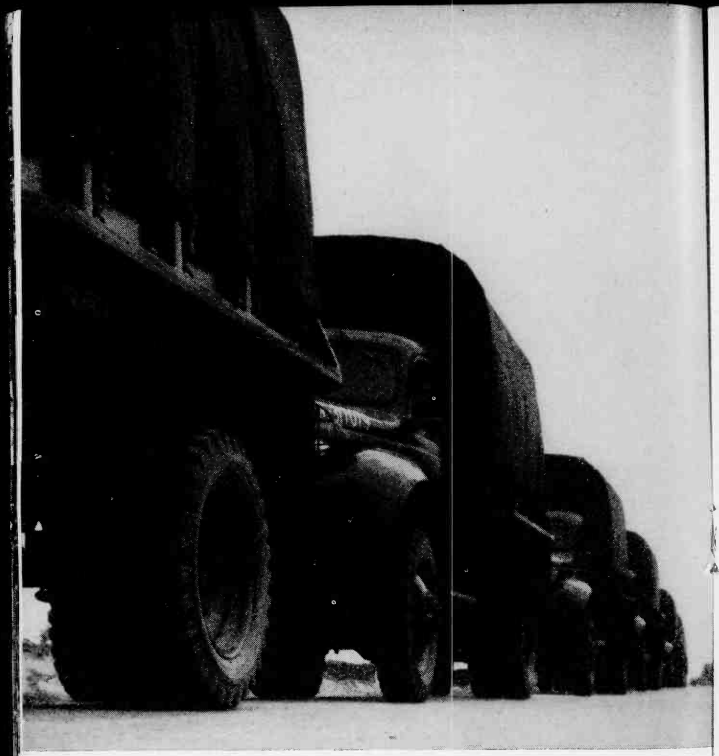

TRUCK DRIVER

An Army driver takes vehicles wherever they are needed. He drives cars and trucks over long roads and up high hills.

The Army vehicles carry men and supplies. The driver drives them from camp to camp or to the battlefield.

An Army driver may go fast, but he does not speed. He cares for his car and also for the men and supplies he carries. A driver who speeds hurts his car and may harm the men or supplies in the car.

Every day the Army driver looks over the car because he wants it in good condition. He keeps the tires in good repair, checks the motor, and greases the car. He also cleans the car.

A driver who looks over his car often will have a better car. He will drive better and his car will be safer. Supplies and men will arrive safely wherever they are going.

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WRECKER OPERATOR

The wrecker operator drives a tow car to the place of a wreck. Army cars and trucks must ride over rough roads and hills. They drive through fields and woods when there are no roads. They may get stuck in the mud. Sometimes, they turn over or are wrecked.

Then the wrecker operator drives his wrecker to the accident. He fastens a cable to the wrecked vehicle. The crane hoist on the wrecker lifts the wreck back on the road or sets it right side up. Then it can be towed to the repair shop where it is fixed.

The wrecker operator must be a good driver. He must know how to fasten a cable to the wreck and how to work the hoist. His wrecker must always be ready and in good shape. It must be cleaned and well greased.

The wrecker operator has an important job in the Army. When there are accidents, a wrecker has much work to do.

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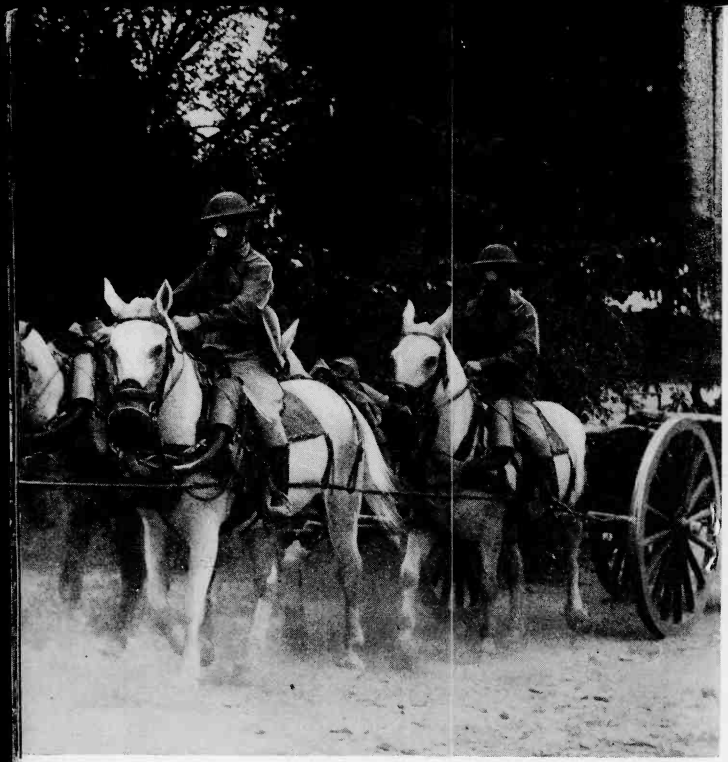
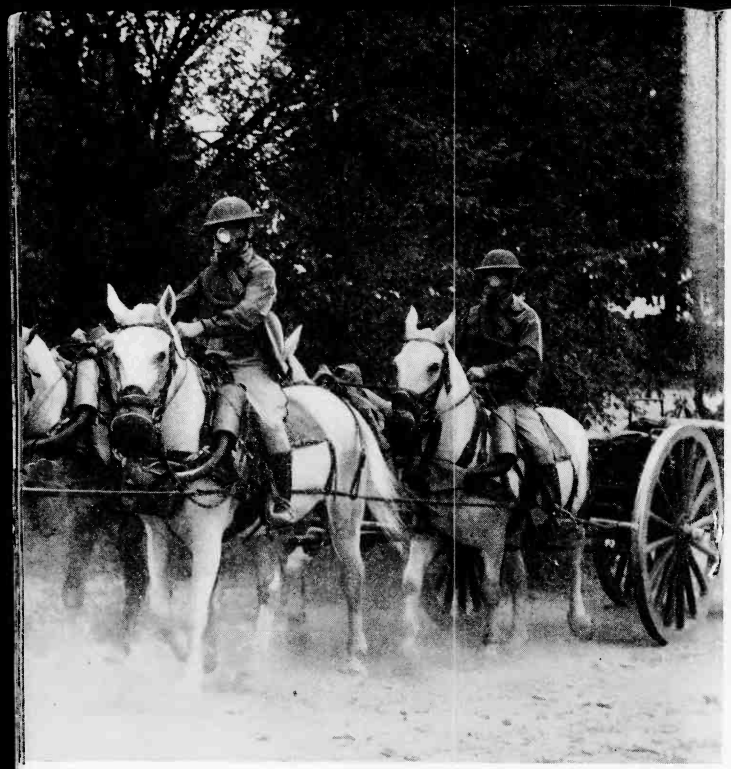


HORSE ARTILLERY DRIVER

A horse artillery driver gets heavy guns to their places. Sometimes big guns are pulled by horses. The horse artillery driver has the job of driving these horses. Two or more horses are called a team. The driver rides one of the horses and drives the others.

The driver harnesses and saddles his horses. The equipment must always be kept clean. The horses must be cared for in the stables and in the field. They must be fed and watered by the horse artillery driver.

A good driver knows and loves his horses. He does not work them too hard and he lets them rest when they are tired.



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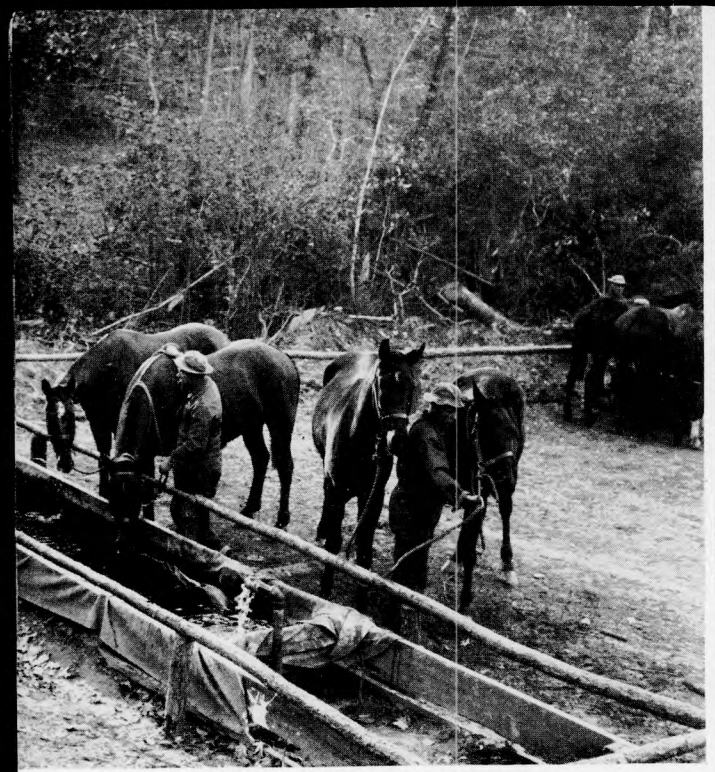
STABLE ORDERLY

The stable orderly cares for the Army's horses and mules. He feeds them and cleans their stables. He puts new straw on the stable floor to make them comfortable. The stable orderly takes care of the animals when they are sick.

The stable orderly keeps the horse and mule fit for long journeys. The mule and the horse must go where no trucks or automobiles can go. They must carry food, guns, and ammunition. These are heavy loads for the animals. The stable orderly must keep his animals strong to carry these loads.

The stable orderly loves horses and mules and is kind to them. He knows that these animals must have good care because they work hard and help soldiers win battles. They must have plenty of the right kind of food. When they are sick, the stable orderly knows how to make them feel better.



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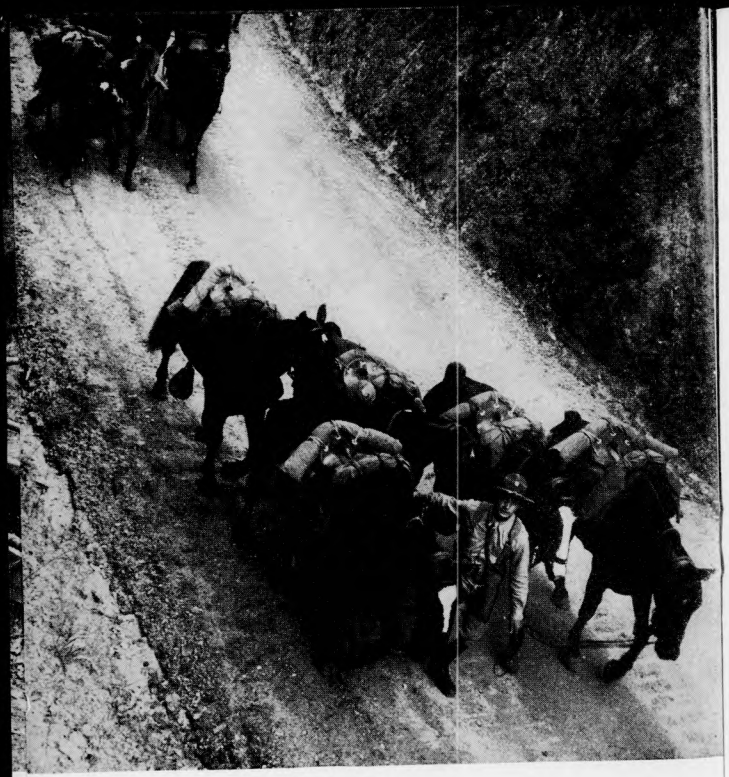


PACK DRIVER

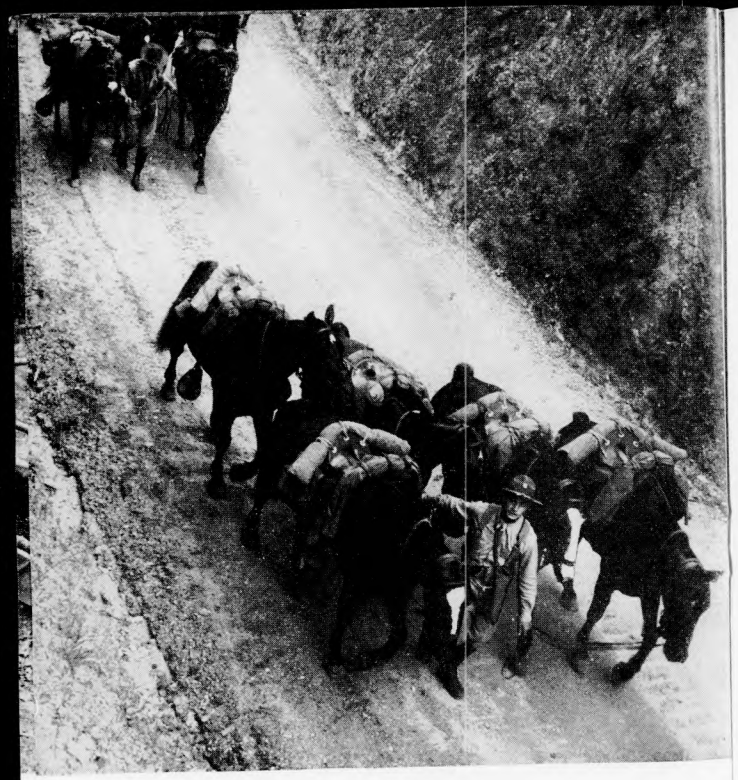
The pack driver and his mules take food, guns, and ammunition up high mountains and into deep forests. They go where Army trucks and cars cannot go.

The pack driver and his mules wait for the trucks at the edge of a forest or at the bottom of a mountain.

The supplies which the trucks bring in are tied to the saddles of the mules. Then the pack driver gives the signal, and the mules are off.

The mules walk in a long line and carry food, guns, and bullets to troops. The pack driver leads his long line of mules over the trail. He must know where he is going, because troops wait for the supplies that the mules carry.

The pack driver must be strong to drive his pack train. He must walk a long way and march fast where there are no roads. He must know how to handle mules so they will not balk, and he must let them rest when they need it.



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PIONEER

Pioneers help vehicles get through rough country. They build new roads through the jungle and clear away trees and stones.

When the enemy builds tank traps, lays land mines, and puts up barbed wire, the pioneer takes them down. He helps our troops move faster for attack.

When the enemy is in the rear, the pioneer builds tank traps, puts up barbed wire, and lays land mines. Our land mines will blow up enemy forces and our tank traps will catch the enemy tanks. Barbed wire on the roads stops enemy troops.

Pioneers are brave men. They often do their work under fire. They are strong men who work with wire, timber, and tools, and fight with guns when they are attacked.

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PONTONEER

The pontoneers are the bridge builders of the Army. Like the pioneers, they travel with the troops. They are sent to a place along a river where there is no bridge but where troops must cross.

They unload the bridge parts from trucks. Rows of pontons are put in the water. These pontons float on the surface. They are fastened to each other and to the shore. Floor strips are placed on top of the pontons. Water will seep into the pontons. The pontoneers pump this water out. When the bridge is ready, the troops can march across the bridge.

Pontoneers may have to build a bridge while they are under fire, so they must be brave, skilled, and fast. They may have to take the bridge down again after our troops have crossed the river. This keeps the enemy from using our bridges and helps to slow him down. Pontoneers make bridges for our soldiers and take them apart when we no longer need them.

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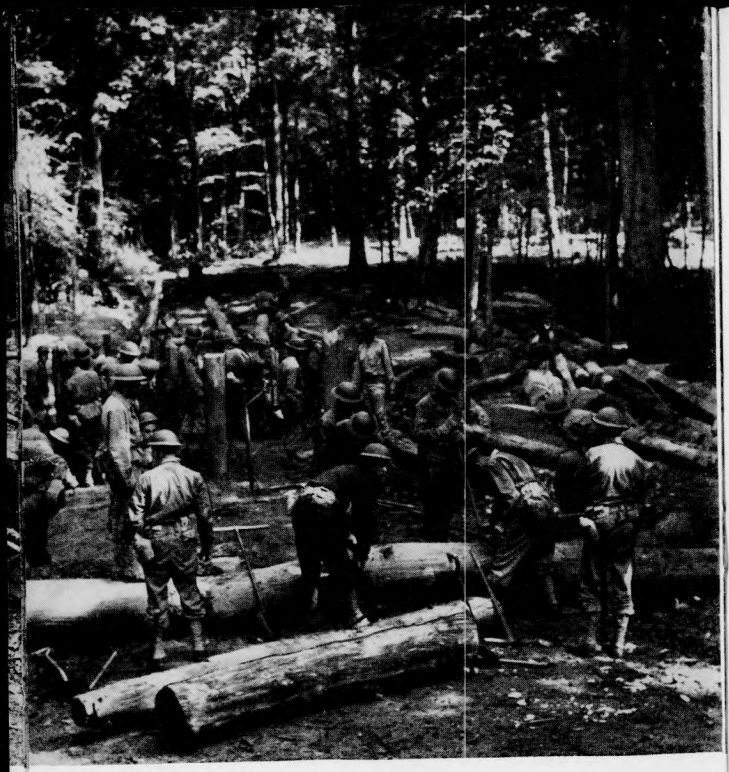


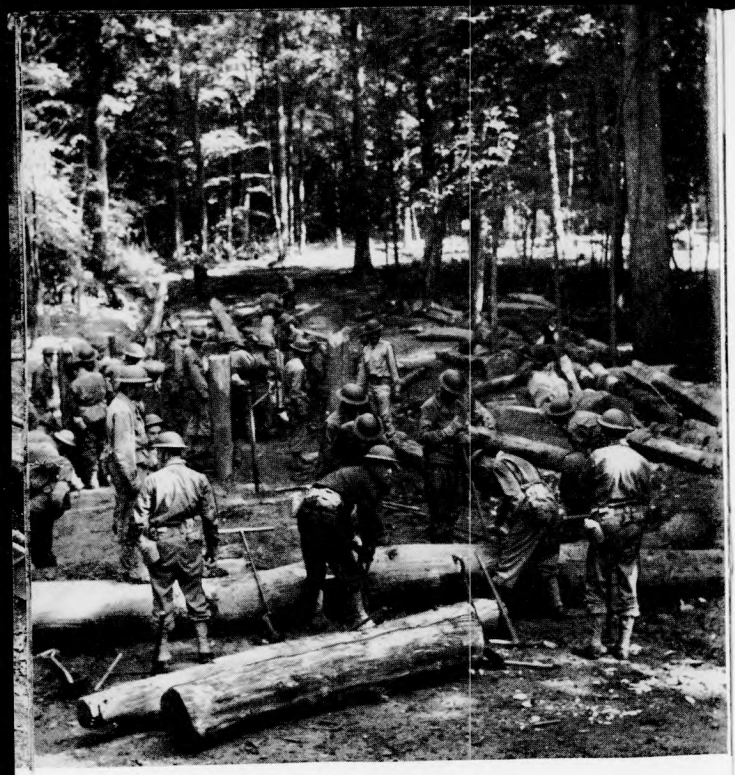
LABORER

Laborers build roads and barracks for fighting soldiers. Some laborers work only on roads. They dig with a pick and shovel, clear away trees, and make rough roads better.

The laborers who build barracks make homes for fighting soldiers. They make them comfortable and give them a place to sleep and eat. These laborers know how to use a hammer and saw, to cut lumber, and to nail it into place.

Laborers have a big job because the Army grows so fast. More and more roads and buildings must be built. The laborers build barracks and roads in camp, and roads through forests and swamps.

Fighting soldiers must have roads in order to travel fast and barracks in which to rest. The laborer helps the fighting troops by building these things for them.



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ORDERLY

An orderly helps a field officer. The field officer is a busy man and keeps the orderly busy too.

A field officer must train his men and make plans for them. Many little things must be done to free the officer for his own job. The orderly does these things.

Sometimes the orderly runs errands for the officer. He may carry bags for visitors. If the officer has a horse, the orderly grooms and saddles it. The orderly also keeps the officer's office in order.

Officers can work better with an orderly to help them. The Army wants the officers to do good work and the officer needs the orderly to help him.

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GAS-CLEANER

DECONTAMINATING EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

The gas-cleaner gets rid of the enemy's poison gas. Soldiers do not breathe gas because they wear gas masks. But certain gases stick to the ground for a long time. They get on shoes, clothes, and equipment. Soldiers may get sick from using the equipment many hours after the gas attack is over. The gas-cleaner must get rid of these gases before soldiers can be safe.

The gas-cleaner is dressed in special rubber clothes which keep the gas from hurting him. He gets rid of the gas with shovels, brushes, and spray guns. He must know how to mix the solution in his spray gun and be able to work long hours in a heavy suit. The job is hard and important.

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